

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PAKISTAN STUDIES: DIRECTOR
DR. HAFEEZ MALIK

REF: STATE 267307, ISLAMABAD 9618

1. DR. HAFEEZ MALIK, DIRECTOR AIPS, RECENTLY VISITED ISLAMABAD AND HELD TALKS WITH DR. CHARLES BOEWE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY USEF/P, PAO COURTNEY, CAO HOPWOOD, AND WITH MR. AGHA SHAHI, FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH COURTNEY AND HOPWOOD DR. MALIK DID NOT INDICATE THAT AIPS WAS IN TROUBLE, OR THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS HAVING PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO HIM THINGS ARE GOING WELL AND THE PROGRAM IS EXCEEDING EVEN OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS. LATER, AFTER HOPWOOD HAD LEFT BECAUSE OF AN APPOINTMENT ELSEWHERE, MALIK DIVULGED TO COURTNEY THAT THE BRAIBANTI RESIGNATION HAS DISTRESSED HIM. HE PERCEIVES THREE MOTIVES IN BRAIBANTI'S ACTION:

1) BRAIBANTI WAS OFFENDED BY PM BHUTTO'S REJECTION OF G.W. CHOUDHRY AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE LAKE COMO CONFERENCE, WHICH BRAIBANTI INTERPRETED AS UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN; 2) BRAIBANTI IS ALSO MIFFED THAT HOWARD WRIGGINS IS ALLEGEDLY TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ISLAMABAD. BRAIBANTI INTERPRETS THIS AS A PERSONAL SLIGHT BECAUSE HE THINKS HE, AS PRESIDENT OF AIPS, SHOULD GET THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HONOR; AND 3) BRAIBANTI IS UNHAPPY WITH THE ORGANIZATIONAL

ARRANGEMENTS OF AIPS WHICH DEVIDE AUTHORITY BETWEEN HIMSELF AND MALIK.

3. OF THE THREE REASONS WHICH MALIK ADVANCES FOR BRAIBANTI'S RESIGNATION ONLY THE LAST APPEARS IN BRAIBANTI'S LETTER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRAIBANTI DID INDEED TAKE OFFENSE AT BHUTTO'S ACTION ON CHOUDHRY SO WE BELIEVE THIS OBSERVATION IS ACCURATE. OF THE WRIGGINS MATTER THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD NOTHING (WE ARE CHECKING ON THIS) BUT WE DOUBT IF IT HAS MUCH SUBSTANCE. WRIGGINS HAS NEVER BEEN PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED WITH AIPS HERE; MORE OF A POSITIVE MOTIVATION IN OUR VIEW, IF AN HONORARY DEGREE WERE TO BE AWARDED WRIGGINS, WOULD BE THE INTER-UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN COLUMBIA AND ISLAMABAD.

4. OBVIOUSLY AT ODDS WITH BRAIBANTI, HAFEEZ BLAMES HIM FOR ARRANGING THE RESIGNATIONS OF ZIRING AND KELLOGG. MALIK SAID THAT IF HE HAD BEEN IN THE US THIS FALL HE COULD HAVE TALKED ZIRING AND KELLOGG OUT OF THIS ACTION.

5. IF AN AIPS REORGANIZATION SHOULD FORCE HIM OUT AS DIRECTOR, MALIK WILL REMAIN AS TRUSTEE BUT TAKE NO ACTIVE PART. HIS ATTITUDE SEEMS TO BE THAT AIPS NEEDS HIM MORE THAN HE NEEDS IT. IF HE IS RETAINED AS DIRECTOR HE EXPECTS TO BE AS ACTIVE AND WIDE-RANGING AS EVER.

6. HIS TWO MEETINGS WITH AGHA SHAHI AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MALIK DESCRIBES AS "STORMY." HE REPORTED TO CHARLES BOEWE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN IS INSISTING ON MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE SELECTION PROCESS IN PARTICULAR AND MORE INVOLVEMENT GENERALLY. IN THE CONVERSATION WITH COURTNEY HE SAID THE GOP HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE A FUNCTION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE BFS. WITH BOEWE HE ADDED THE THOUGHT THAT EVEN IF THE UGC WERE INVOLVED THEY WOULD NOT WANT TO BE RELEGATED ONLY TO THE PREROGATIVE OF A SECOND VETO IN THE SELECTION PROCESS.

7. MALIK HAS NOT SEEN BHUTTO ON THIS CURRENT TRIP AND ACCORDING TO HIS MOST RECENT STATEMENTS DOES NOT EXPECT TO. HE WAS TOLD BY AGHA SHAHI THAT THE MFA WILL WISH TO HAVE FURTHER TALKS WITH HIM BEFORE HE DEPARTS PAKISTAN. IF THE SITUATION SHOULD WORSEN
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MARKEDLY HE SAYS
HE CAN ALWAYS GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH BHUTTO THROUGH HIS CONTACT GENERAL IMTIAZ.

8. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOP WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY INSIST ON SOME PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES IN AIPS IF IT IS TO CONTINUE FQHDING. AMONG THE SUGGESTIONS THEY MAY ADVANCE IN ADDITION TO THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMISSION INVOLVEMENT ARE OFFICIAL

REPRESENTATION (THROUGH AMBASSADOR OR EDUCATIONAL ADVISOR) ON AIPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OR POSSIBLY MEMBERSHIP EXTENDED TO INCLUDE PAKISTANI ACADEMICS RESIDENT HERE. INTERESTINGLY TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO GOP CONTACT ON THIS SUBJECT WITH EITHER THE USEF/P OR THE EMBASSY. INSTEAD ALL CONVERSATIONS HAVE BEEN WITH MALIK.

9. EMBASSY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT NO AIPS MEETINGS WILL BE HELD UNTIL MALIK'S RETURN TO US. IN OUR VIEW HIS PRESENCE ESSENTIAL TO GET A COMPLETE REVIEW OF ALL THE FACTORS RELATING TO THE PROBLEMS.

10. MOST UNFORTUNATE ASPECT OF CURRENT SITUATION IS THAT ORGANIZATION AT MOMENT IS A HEADLESS WONDER AND NO PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS POSSIBLE UNTIL MATTER RESOLVED. DELAY IN RECEIVING 1976-77 NOMINATIONS FOR AIPS GRANTS UNTIL SOME TIME IN THE LATE SPRING MAY ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY OF AWARDS UNTIL SECOND SEMESTER, AND EVEN THIS IS, OF COURSE, CONTINGENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.
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